(d) The percentage of disposal of cases during last 3 years is:—

1997	—	66.9%
1998	—	66.8%
1999	—	50.4%

Lifting a ban from going to work in Kuwait and Arab countries

1342. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to lift a ban on its nationals from going to work in Kuwait and other Arab countries;

(b) if so, the grounds on which said ban was imposed;

(c) under what pressure Government propose to lift such a ban; and

(d) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) The ban on deployment of housemaids and male domestics in Kuwait was imposed by the Government in view of the complaints relating to harassment, non-payment/delayed payment of wages etc. The ban on deployment of male domestics has since been lifted. The question of lifting the ban or otherwise on deployment of housemaids in Kuwait can be considered only after Government is assured that such deployment would be as per the terms and conditions of employment.

Membership of EPF Scheme

1343. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the membership of the EPF Scheme from 1995-96 to 1999-2000, year-wise, for both the exempted and non-exempted categories;

(b) the reasons for decrease in the membership, if any;

(c) the arrear amounts due to default by the employers during the years mentioned above;

(d) the amounts that can be realized for each of the years; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to realized the releasable amounts and those considered to be unrealizable?